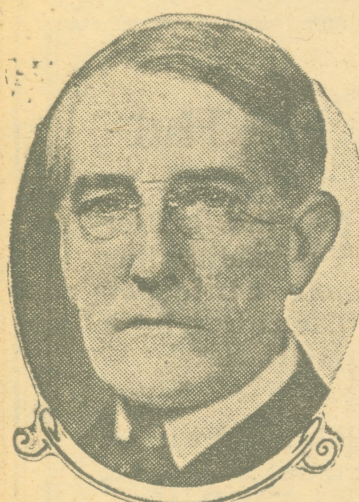


RICH CANNOT ESCAPE VENGEANCE BY GRAFT, SAYS REV. DR. STRATON

WHY I AM WILLING TO WRITE MY COMMENTS ON THIS SAD AND SHOCKING TRAGEDY



JOHN ROACH STRATON, D. D.

When the invitation from The GRAPHIC to write on the Hall-Mills case came to me through my friend, the Rev. Dr. Ralph Welles Keeler, pastor of the Crawford Memorial Church of New York and religious news editor of The GRAPHIC, I was given the assurance that The GRAPHIC would print my comments precisely as I wrote them, and that the paper desired to do a service for God and man by opening its columns for lessons in right living and straight thinking, in the light of this terrible tragedy, which, because of the prominence of those connected with it and the deplorable conditions that brought it forth, has centered the grieved and amazed attention of the whole world.

JOHN ROACH STRATON.

Flouting of Law Proved Unsafe by Hall-Mills Trial

By REV. JOHN ROACH STRATON, D. D.

Pastor Calvary Baptist Church, New York City

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A pretty persistent effort has been made in this country to discount the binding authority of our criminal laws by the assiduous circulation of the idea that only the poor are punished and that the stronger and richer elements of our society can always "get by."

The Hall-Mills murder case constitutes good proof to the contrary. It would seem af-

ter all that despite the depre-dations of the political plunder-bund, and despite the nul-lification propaganda of a wet officialdom, nevertheless, after all, there is something to "Jersey justice."

Regardless of what the final verdict may be in this particular case, it is reassuring to the patriotic and thoughtful mind that, regardless of the standing, financially and socially, of those involved, nevertheless, a courageous, consistent and thorough-going effort is being made to bring the guilty to book and to vindicate the majesty of righteous law.

It was reassuring to see the expedition with which a competent jury was selected for the trial of this case, and that all pettifogging, legal effort to delay unduly the progress of the case and to

split hairs in the selection of a jury were boldly and promptly swept aside.

Justice Flouted

Regardless as to whether it is determined at last that those who are now under trial are really the guilty parties, nevertheless the final vindication of justice and righteousness in this case will be most salutary in its effects and influences upon our country.

The miscarriages of justice in our criminal courts have become so monotonous in their regularity, and the fact that while there are few murders in England and a high percentage of executions, whereas there are

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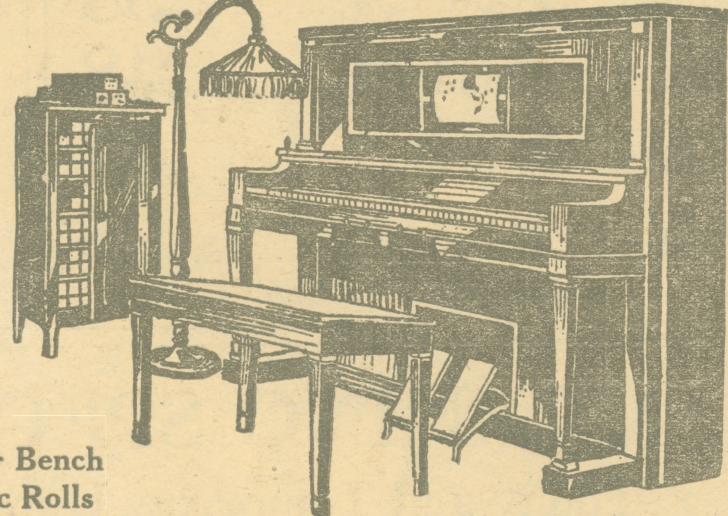
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many murders in America (the rate has now reached about 12,000 a year) and almost no executions, should cause all who value stable society and governmental security to hope for the most vigorous possible handling of the present case.

It is written in Scripture that "God is no respecter of persons." God knows nothing about our arbitrary and artificial grouping into "upper," "middle" and "lower" classes.

God's View of Man

God does not view humanity horizontally. He views it perpendicularly. He looks straight down upon the individual man and grades him according to his personal merit and worth, and not according to the social stratum to which he may be assigned by men. The final results of this unhappy

case will be salutary in their influences if strict justice is done and the chastising hand of the law falls where it is really deserved.

Don't Miss Dr. Straton's startling analysis of the Hall-Mills trial every day exclusively in The GRAPHIC.

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